

Message Text

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53

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 PM-04

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

DODE-00 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /056 W

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O 172010Z Y

B 76

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9057

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 1314

PASS TREASURY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EC PFOR MILI

SUBJECT: ECUADOREAN AIR FORCE \$12.7 MILLION DEBT FOR A-37S

1. THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED UNOFFICIALLY THAT NAC HAS CONSIDERED THE QUESTION OF THE ECUADOREAN AIR FORCE ARREARAGE ON THE \$12.7 MILLION DEBT FOR A-37S. FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S AND TREASURY'S INFORMATION, THE SITUATION IS AS FOLLOWS:

A. FONMIN SUBSECRETARY AYALA INFORMED THE AMBASSADOR AND COUNTRY DIRECTOR KING ON FEBRUARY 13 THAT THE ECUADOREAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO SEND A NOTE TO THE DEPARTMENT ASSURING IT THAT THE ARREARAGES WOULD BE CLEARED UP WITHIN 45 DAYS. HE OFFERED A SIMILAR ASSURANCE TO THE AMBASSADOR, INCLUDING HIS PERSONAL REGRET THAT THE MATTER HAD NOT BEEN DEALT WIDTH PRIOR TO NOW.

B. THE EMBASSY HAS PREVIOUSLY ADVISED THE DEPARTMENT OF THE METHOD OF PAYMENT, NAMELY THAT CITIBANK, THROUGH ITS LONDON AFFILIATE, HAS NEGOTIATED A LOAN WITH THE GOE FOR THE ENTIRE AMOUNT. QUITO CITIBANK MANAGER ASSURED
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THE AMBASSADOR AS RECENTLY AS FEBRUARY 12 THAT NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE LOAN HAD BEEN COMPLETED AND THAT THE PAPERS WERE IN THE HANDS OF THE GOE FOR SIGNATURE. WE HAVE LEARNED FROM GOE SOURCES THAT THE STATUS OF THE MATTER WITHIN THE GOE IS THAT FINAL APPROVAL OF THE LOAN ON PART OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE BOARD (JUNTA DE DEFENSA NACIONAL) WAS EXPECTED FEBRUARY 17, FOLLOWING WHICH THE LOAN AGREEMENT WAS TO BE SIGNED AND RETURNED TO CITIBANK.

2. IF THE DEPARTMENT, TREASURY OR NAC DESIRE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE ADVISE. IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY INFORMATION OR INQUIRY FROM WASHINGTON, E SHALL ASSUME THAT THE ASSURANCES AND EXPLANATION GIVEN ARE SATISFACTORY.
BREWSTER

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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